

lected parks of more cultivated regions. The timber of these isolated spots seldom stands as compact as those of larger forests, but they consist generally of respectable sized, scattered trees, looking as though they had been planted for the purpose and shade of a pleasure-ground. Some of these little forests are large enough to supply fencing and fuel for several large plantations, while others afford scarcely enough for one. By-and-by, when Government timber and prairie lands are not found together, as at present, the settler will consider himself lucky if his claim covers as much of one of these islands of timber as will suffice his purpose in the cultivation and improvement of a farm. He will appropriate first, the heavier forest into the valleys of the larger streams, and, if necessary, select his plowlands on the high prairies above the bluffs adjoining. Some inconveniences, however, would attend such a selection; as for instance: on the road from Fort Riley towards Council Grove, the bluff is very high, steep, and difficult of ascent or descent; and although the soil of the valley is rich and deep, yet it is too thickly covered with rank vines and shrubbery, as well as great, tall, thrifty trees, to be cleared and cultivated; while the prairies above and so near, are all ready for the plow and the farmhouse.

“THE DIVIDE.”

Everywhere in the West, the highest ground between two streams is called “the Divide,” and often the whole tract is known by that appellation. The whole region across which the road from Fort Riley to Council Grove